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Soviet, U.S. Scientists Monitor Explosion

LD1708191088 Moscow TASS in English 1842 GMT 17 Aug 88

[Text] San Francisco August 17 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Sidorin reports:

A Soviet-American experiment for monitoring nuclear explosions was held at the range in the area of Pahute Mesa, Nevada. A nuclear charge with a yield of up to 150 kilotons was exploded at a depth of about 700 metres at the foot of the plateau.

The yield and parametres of the explosion were registered by highly sensitive seismographs and other equipment installed by Soviet and American scientists close to the epicentre and also at a considerable distance from it. One of the aims of the experiment was to compare the effectiveness of the two different methods of establishing the size of nuclear explosions: a teleseismic method by which explosions can be registered at a considerable distance, and a hydrodynamic method under which the equipment is installed close to the site of the explosion. The aim of Soviet and American scientists is to choose the optimum method which would suit both sides in verifying nuclear explosions. When the information is computerized, the participants in the experiment will compare the data they arrive at with initial parametres of the charge and by the degree of coincidence will establish the reliability and effectiveness of the methods developed.

A similar experiment will be made at the Soviet range in the area of Semipalatinsk in September. Such tests were already held successfully in Semipalatinsk last year and in Nevada last spring. They confirm that both countries have reliable means of verification of nuclear explosions.

The results of joint research that has become possible due to the arrangement reached at the Soviet-U.S. summit in December 1987 are of fundamental importance for the progress at the talks between the USSR and the USA on the question of nuclear testing. As an initial step the participants in the talks are to agree upon effective measures of verification which will finally make it possible to ratify the 1974 Soviet-American treaty on the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests (threshold test ban treaty) and the 1976 Soviet-American treaty on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes (peaceful nuclear explosions treaty). Then it is planned to start coordinating further intermediate restrictions on nuclear tests so as to achieve the ultimate aim, the termination of nuclear testing.

Experiment 'Great Success'

LD1808080288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0055 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Excerpts] San Fransisco, 18 August (TASS)—Andrey Sidorin, TASS correspondent, reports:

U.S. and Soviet specialists described as a great success the joint experiment on verification [kontrol] of nuclear explosions conducted by them at the test ground in Nevada. [passage omitted]

Only the first part of the experiment has now been completed in Nevada, elaborated I.M. Palenykh, head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva full-scale talks on limitations and the ultimate halting of nuclear tests, who is in Nevada. Its second and final stage, he said, will take place on 14 September of this year when an analogical joint nuclear test will be carried out in the area of Semipalatinsk, where U.S. specialists have already arrived. Based on the results of the two explosions, a decision will be made at the Geneva talks as to which of the verification methods [metody konrolya] should be included in the protocol to the 1974 treaty on limitation of underground tests of nuclear weapons. The determination of such a method will make possible the ratification of this treaty and the 1976 treaty on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. After that we should turn to the next stage of the talks—further limitations on nuclear explosions with regard to their power and number. One should not wait for ratification of the talks aleady under way. Our goal is the complete halting of nuclear tests, emphasized the Soviet represenative.

General Calls for Enhanced Security Measures

LD1708145288 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 17 Aug 88

["Europe: The Need for Broader Confidence-Building Measures"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS—The confidence-building measures, embracing military activity of land forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO in Europe, are being successfully carried out. The activity of land units has become to a certain extent open, verifiable, and, consequently, more predictable, said Major General Viktor Tatarnikov, member of the Soviet delegation to the Vienna meeting of the states, parties to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in a MOSCOW NEWS interview.

Naval activity and independent air exercises still remain major "blank spaces" in the process of confidence- and security-building measures. The air and naval forces have an unprecedented striking power, a big range and high target hitting precision.

The Warsaw Treaty Organisation and some other European states therefore believe that the time has come to take under control naval and air activity in Europe and the adjacent sea and oceanic areas, to make this activity open and predictable. And this work should begin at the regular stage of the Stockholm conference.

These measures should remind those applicable to land military activity: inclusion of major air and naval exercises into annual plans of the notified military activity,

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